

**Isom, Debra A (Debbi)**

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**From:** Williams, Tanya [tawi461@ECY.WA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2006 10:42 AM  
**To:** HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.WA.GOV  
**Subject:** Ecology: Hanford Site Air Operating Permit Comment Period Starts Today!

This message is from the Washington State Department of Ecology

**Comment Period  
Hanford Site Air Operating Permit Renewal  
July 10 through August 11, 2006**

**Presentations and Hearing  
July 26, 2006  
7 p.m.  
Nuclear Waste Program  
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.  
Richland, WA 99354**

**RECEIVED**  
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**EDMC**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on the Hanford Site draft Title V Air Operating Permit (AOP). The AOP regulates air emissions on the Hanford Site. The current permit will expire this year and is up for renewal. The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) submitted an application for permit renewal, and Ecology has prepared a draft permit.

The public comment period will run from July 10 through August 11, 2006. The permit holder is the U.S. Department of Energy – Richland Operations Office, PO Box 550, Richland, WA 99352.

**About the Permit**

Congress amended the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) in 1990 by creating AOPs for industrial sources of air pollution (codified in Title V of the CAA). Before then, emissions regulations were scattered throughout the CAA. An AOP brought all applicable requirements into one document.

In 1991, the Washington State Legislature updated the Washington Clean Air Act (RCW 70.94) to make it consistent with these changes. In 1993, Ecology developed Washington's AOP regulation (WAC 173-401) to comply with federal regulations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted the state the authority to implement the AOP regulations in November 1994. The Hanford Title V AOP was first issued in June 2001, for a 5-year period from July 2, 2001 to July 1, 2006.

Three regulatory agencies administer the Hanford AOP. Ecology regulates the nonradioactive criterion and toxic air emissions. The Washington State Department of Health (Health) regulates all radioactive air emissions. The Benton Clean Air Authority (BCAA) administers outdoor burning and asbestos handling.

**Renewal Process**

WAC 173-401 requires all AOPs be renewed every five years. In 2005, USDOE submitted the renewal application and supporting materials for agency review. The current permit remains in

7/10/2006

effect during permit renewal.

The regulating agencies reviewed the renewal application, and Ecology prepared a draft permit. The public may review and comment on the draft permit during a 30-day public comment period from July 10 through August 11, 2006.

After the public comment period, Ecology will consider comments and issue a responsiveness summary. The responsiveness summary will detail how comments affect the preparation of the proposed AOP. Then, Ecology will submit the proposed AOP to EPA for a 45-day review. Following this review, Ecology will issue the final permit. If EPA fails to object to a permit that violates the CAA or the implementation plan, any person may petition EPA to object within 60 days following EPA's 45-day review period.

### **How can I review the draft permit?**

During the comment period, the draft permit is available for public review Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., at the Department of Ecology, Nuclear Waste Program Library, 3100 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, WA 99354. To make an appointment to review the documents call 509-372-7920. You can also review the draft permit online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm> or at one of the information repositories listed below.

#### **Portland**

Portland State University  
Branford Price and Miller Library  
934 SW Harrison  
Attn: Judy Andrews 503-725-4126

#### **Richland**

U.S. Dept. of Energy Reading Room  
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L  
2770 University Dr.  
Attn: Janice Parthree 509-372-7443

#### **Seattle**

University of Washington Suzzallo Library  
Government Publications Division  
Attn: Eleanor Chase 206-543-4664

#### **Spokane**

Gonzaga University  
Foley Center  
E. 502 Boone  
Attn: Linda Pierce 509-323-6110

### **How do I make a comment?**

Contact Oliver Wang to make a comment or to receive more information. Please submit all comments in writing.

3100 Port of Benton Blvd.  
Richland, WA 99354  
509-372-7971 fax

All comments received during the public comment period will be considered and responded to when

Ecology issues the final permit decision on whether to approve modification of the permit.

**Attend the public hearing**

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nuclear Waste Program office, 3100 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, WA 99354.

Ecology and Health will give presentations and be available to answer questions. Members of the public can submit official verbal and written comments.

Please contact Tanya Williams at 509-372-7883 for more information.